



# John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **2015-17 State Budget Passes Assembly**

**Madison** – State Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-chair of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee, released the following statement regarding the 2015-17 state budget bill, which passed the State Assembly earlier today:

“I am proud that we were able to pass a budget that prioritizes the best interests of taxpayers and strengthens our state’s economy. We have invested in education, seniors, the disabled, and hardworking Wisconsin taxpayers. While this budget was tight, prudent fiscal budgeting allowed us to hold the line on taxes and reduce borrowing.

“Our top priority this budget was K-12 education. Our children are the future leaders of our state, and it’s imperative to invest in their educational foundation. With this in mind, we restored per-pupil funding in the first year of the biennium and increased funding by \$100 per-pupil in the second year.

“In addition to investing in K-12 education, we have reduced the cut to the UW System by \$50 million. Our goal was to protect the quality of our state’s university system while increasing educational opportunities and accessibility to Wisconsin students. It’s for this reason that we extended the tuition freeze for in-state undergraduates for an additional 2 years and gave the System flexibilities that they have been requesting for years.

“We also made a commitment to protect our state’s most vulnerable populations. We saved SeniorCare so the elderly will be able to continue to afford their prescription medications and we expanded the Family Care program statewide. Because of this change, disabled people across Wisconsin will now have access to the important services provided by this program including self-directed care and ADRC services.

“Improvements to our state’s transportation budget are also included in the state budget. Not only did we reduce the amount of borrowing to pay for our state’s roads, we held all areas of the state equal. Today, borrowing is the lowest it has been in nearly 30 years. We’ve invested in our infrastructure without running up the state’s credit card.

“Finally, we have successfully held the line on taxes. This biennium there won’t be any property, income, or sales tax increases. We’ve simplified and streamlined the tax code; this is great news for hardworking middle class families across Wisconsin.

“The work that we’ve done this budget season is paying off. After listening to comments and concerns of residents around the state, we’ve made improvements to the governor’s budget recommendations. These improvements protect our state’s taxpayers, prioritize education, and invest in our infrastructure. Today, I am proud that we have a budget that continues to move Wisconsin forward.”

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